

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-24 (canceled)

1        25. (previously presented) An element having high  
2 mechanical strength and high vibration absorption comprising:  
3              an internal core composed of at least [[one]] two  
4 discrete elongated pultruded core member members capable of  
5 relative longitudinal displacement and constituted of at least one  
6 first material consisting of a thermoplastic resin in which a  
7 plurality of natural and/or synthetic fibers are embedded and  
8 having predominantly high mechanical characteristics, said core  
9 members extending alongside one another over a full length of said  
10 element, and at least one second material with predominantly highly  
11 elastic characteristics chemically bonded to the first material  
12 without the use of adhesives of both of said core members and  
13 bridging between said core members to form a bearing therebetween  
14 allowing small relative longitudinal displacement of the core  
15 members; and  
16              a layer covering said core.

1        26. (previously presented) The element defined in claim  
2 25 wherein said fibers are composed at least in part of glass  
3 fiber.

1           27. (previously presented) The element defined in claim  
2         26 wherein said second material is an elastomeric polymer.

1           28. (previously presented) The element defined in claim  
2         27 wherein said thermoplastic resin is engineered polyurethane  
3         thermoplastic polymer (ETPU).

1           29. (previously presented) The element defined in claim  
2         27 wherein said second material is composed of thermoplastic  
3         polyurethane.

1           30. (previously presented) The element defined in claim  
2         29 wherein said layer is an elastomeric polymer.

31. (Canceled)

1           32. (Currently amended) The element defined in claim  
2         [[31]] 25 wherein said members are rod-shaped or disk-shaped.

1           33. (previously presented) The element defined in claim  
2         32 wherein said members are rod-shaped and each have at least one  
3         flat surface and one curved surface, said bearing being inserted  
4         between and bonded to flat surfaces of said members.

1           34. (previously presented) The element defined in claim  
2         33 in the form of a handle for a hand tool.

1           35. (Currently amended) A method of making an element  
2       with high mechanical strength and high vibration absorption,  
3       comprising the steps of:

4           (a) forming at by pultrusion least two discrete elongated  
5       members of a length capable of extending along an entire length of  
6       said element and relatively displaceable in a longitudinal  
7       direction, said elongated members being [[and]] composed of a first  
8       material having predominantly high mechanical characteristics and  
9       comprising a thermoplastic resin in which a plurality of natural  
10      and/or synthetic fibers are embedded;

11           (b) inserting between said members and automatically  
12       bonding thereto by chemical bonding without the use of an adhesive  
13       a bearing of at least a second material having predominantly highly  
14       elastic characteristics whereby said members and said bearing form  
15       a core said bearing permitting small longitudinal displacements of  
16       said members; and

17           (c) coating said core with at least one third material.

1           36. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim 35  
2       wherein the bonding of the first material and the second material  
3       is effected by the application of heat and without the use of an  
4       adhesive.

37. (Canceled)

1           38. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim  
2       [[37]] 36 wherein said fibers include glass fibers.

1           39. (previously presented) The method defined in claim  
2       38 wherein said second material is a thermoplastic polyurethane.

1           40. (previously presented) The method defined in claim  
2       39 wherein said thermoplastic resin is engineered polyurethane  
3       thermoplastic polymer (EPTU).

1           41. (previously presented) The method defined in claim  
2       40 wherein said third material is composed of an elastomeric  
3       polymer.

42. (Canceled)

1           43. (Currently amended) The method defined in claim  
2       [[42]] 41 wherein said core is shaped at least in part by  
3       coextrusion at a temperature sufficient to bond said first and  
4       second material together.

1           44. (previously presented) The method defined in claim  
2       43, further comprising the step of thermoforming said third  
3       material to shape said element into an ergonomic shape.